

North Carolina

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

September 2015



Division 5

COUNTIES SERVED | Durham, Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, Wake, Warren

Gov. McCrory Appoints Nick Tennyson Secretary of Transportation

In early August, Governor Pat McCrory announced the appointment of Nick Tennyson as the new Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Tennyson previously served as Chief Deputy Secretary since March 2013, and succeeds Tony Tata.



Nick Tennyson is sworn in as Transportation Secretary

"Nick Tennyson is the perfect choice to continue the momentum we have made in North Carolina's transportation strategy," said Governor McCrory. "He has been involved in planning all of our key transportation strategies over the last two and half years, and is equipped to hit the ground running to continue our progress."

Secretary Tennyson and the NCDOT team will continue to focus on expanding and safely maintaining our transportation network through the Governor's 25 Year Vision, support new funding strategies including the bonds to Connect NC, strengthen our ports to make our state more globally competitive and deliver other infrastructure projects to help grow the state's economy and create jobs. [Learn More](#)

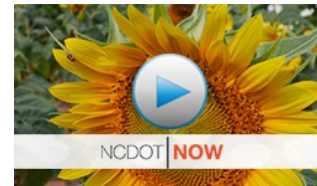
Fortify I-40 Rebuild Project

Progress continues for the Fortify I-40 rebuild project, with additional lane shifts and restrictions in the travel lanes and lots of construction activity in the closed off inside lanes in both directions of the interstate planned for September.



I-40 in Fortify work zone

Stay Connected



NCDOT Now

NCDOT NOW

On this week's NCDOT Now, NCDOT partners with the N.C. Department of Agriculture on creating pollinator habitats in wildflower beds, tickets available now for special train stops at the North Carolina State Fair and the Lexington Barbecue Festival in October, and ferry crews help rescue a father and son in Swan Quarter Bay. [Watch this week's NCDOT Now](#)

- After taking a break for the Labor Day holiday weekend, crews will resume preparing outside shoulders on both I-40 East and West the east and west for their transformation into travel lanes.

I-40 East is just about in its long-term three-lane traffic pattern, with vehicles already using the outside shoulder between Jones Franklin Road and just west of Rock Quarry Road. Once prep work on the shoulders and at the split with I-440 West are complete, then the shift will be extended the rest of the way.

The same prep work is already under way on I-40 West, where the current two-lane ramp from I-440 East will be reduced to one lane, and outside shoulders between the split and Lake Wheeler Road will be carrying traffic by the end of the month.

The multiple traffic pattern changes coming in September mean drivers really have to be alert through the work zone. As part of the traffic shifts, the lanes are narrower, the road surface is rougher, concrete barriers are along the inside lane for the protection of workers, and there aren't shoulders on the outside lanes. So it becomes much more important for motorists to slow down, pay attention to the roadway and the lane markings, and avoid distractions like talking on cellphones, adjusting radios, etc.

Drivers also need to make sure they are not being distracted by the construction activity that will still be going on in the blocked off inside lanes in both directions of the highway as crews continue to prepare the inside lanes and bridges along the 8 1/2-mile construction zone for the rebuilding to come over the next several months.

**Division 5 Board Member:
Jeff Sheehan**

Jeff Sheehan of Wake County was appointed to the N.C. Board of Transportation by Governor McCrory and joined the board in September 2014. He represents Division 5, which covers Wake, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Person, Warren and Vance counties.



Jeff Sheehan

"It is an honor to serve alongside the extremely talented group of people we have in the Department, and play a role in helping our state attract new businesses and residents through transportation improvements," says Sheehan.

Sheehan graduated from Wake Forest University in 1992, and the University of North Carolina Kenan Flagler Business School with an MBA in 2000. He is a Partner with Trinity Capital Advisors focusing on value-add commercial real estate investments. Prior to joining Trinity Capital, Jeff worked for the Duke Realty Corporation for 15 years in a variety of roles, most recently as Senior Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Region where he was responsible for acquisition, development, construction leasing and property management for a 10 million square foot real estate portfolio.

Sheehan serves on the Board of the North Carolina Symphony, is a past chairman of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce, past president of the RTP Chapter for the National Association for Industrial and Office Properties, and was selected for a Triangle Business Journal 40 Under 40 Leadership Award as an outstanding professional under the age of 40, recognized for his contribution to his company and to the community. He is married and has three children.

NOTABLE PROJECT IN DIVISION FIVE

More than 55 years after the idea was first discussed, the East End Connector in Durham is moving toward reality.

Construction on the \$142 million project has been under way since spring, and when finished in 2019, the 3.9-mile highway will provide a direct freeway connection designed to interstate standards between the Durham Freeway and north of the U.S. 70/N.C. 98 intersection. It will also upgrade U.S. 70 to a freeway between Pleasant Drive and N.C. 98. And eventually it is expected that I-885 will be the designation for a combination of the Connector and the Durham Freeway.

The Connector will include two lanes in each direction, with space for a future third lane each way. It will provide a freeway link between I-85 and I-40, the Triangle Expressway and U.S. 1 in southern Wake County.

It is anticipated it will promote economic development along the I-85 corridor toward Virginia by improving access for people and goods between Durham and counties north of the city to major employment and retail centers, Research Triangle Park, Raleigh-Durham International Airport and Wake County.

The new highway is also expected to lower congestion on the Durham Freeway through downtown Durham, and will help divert traffic off local roads such as U.S. 15/501, which is often used as a connection between I-85 and I-40, as well as a number of often busy Durham streets.

Steve Abbott

Division 5 Communications Officer

Phone: (919) 707.2660

swabbott@ncdot.gov

Joey Hopkins, P.E.

Division 5 Engineer

Jeff Sheehan

Division 5 Board Member

NC Department of Transportation | ncdot.gov